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Previous References.

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Later References.

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RESERVED

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. 1

Part B for August 1942

SUBJECT

Recommendation No. 138 of the Prison Reforms Committee suggesting important items of news being read to prisoners at regular intervals —

Recommendation No. 138 of the Prison Reforms Committee

General and Revenue Secretariat — P(S) File No. 2 of 1942 — [App. F. III-2

Serial No. H 1

The Prison Reforms Committee observe in para 17 of Chapter VI of their Report that a longing for news of the outside world is a natural desire, especially for those who area themselves excluded from it, and that nothing is gained by its suppression through the banning of news in prison. The Committee think that the effect of this would simply be to shut the prisoners out from knowledge of that outer world into which he must go back after release, and that a knowledge of current events helps a man in prison to think, while ignorance of them is a real handicap to the recently discharged prisoner. They accordingly recommend that —

a) news items and other particulars now broadcast to the Public through the radio may be made available to prisoners, or in the alternative

b) arrangements may be made for the reading out of select news matters contained in the newspapers or in special periodicals prepared for circulation in jail; and —

c) that educated prisoners should be allowed to get their own papers

The Inspector General of Prisons is of opinion that prisoners may be allowed to obtain at their own cost such of the weekly or monthly magazines as may be approved by the

NOTE—Cont. Sheet.

WD 04155--GPB—55,000—23-10-41

Serial No.

Superintendent.

2) As regards (a) in respect of which the I. G. P. has furnished no opinion, the installation of a radio in the jail and its regular maintenance ~~may~~ would perhaps be as costly affair, and it may not yet be expedient to provides such amenities in prisons. Even the prisons in England do not appear to have been provided with such things

3) As regards (b) it may not be possible without incurring extra expenditure on this account to run a periodical specially prepared for circulation in jails. This is said to have been done in ~~England~~ Ireland, where in 1910 the Prisons Board began to issue "an illustrated weekly publication containing news of the main current events of the world" for circulation amongst "well-conducted prisoners of long sentences some time before their release". The Board justified the starting of the paper on the ground that "keeping prisoners of long sentences without any knowledge of current events leads to mental apathy and depression, and places them at a disadvantage on release". * Whatever the value of such a periodical in ~~England~~ Ireland and other countries in the West might be, in India at any rate it will not be of much use since the large majority of the inmates of Indian Prisons are illiterate

* Fannan Brockway, English Prisons today. page 178.

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Serial No.

4) The suggestion of the Committee for select news matters being read out to the prisoners stands, however, on a different footing. This was an interesting innovation made after the war in English prisons, namely, the weekly reading of a "news-bulletin". The Prison Commissioners reported as to this: "There is no question as to its value. A knowledge of current events helps the men to think during their imprisonment, while ignorance of them is a real handicap on discharge"*. The experiment of news items selected by the Supt or the Chief jailor being read out every week and explained to the prisoners, may perhaps be tried for some time

* L. W. Fox: The Modern English Prison: page 101.

5) As regards (c) viz the suggestion that educated prisoners should be allowed to get their own papers, the Committee's recommendation may perhaps be approved. Such prisoners are already allowed under Rule 269 of the jail manual to obtain books of an unobjectional character either from their friends or at their own cost. There is no reason why this privilege should not be extended to news-papers and periodicals. The Committee's recommendation may perhaps be approved

MWW
8/7

Law Secy)

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SECY. LAW DEPT. 3 JY 9 JULY 1942 GOVT OF MYSORE

NOTE—Cont. Sheet.

WD C4155—GPB—55,000—23-10-41

Recommendation of the Prison Reforms Committee - Supply of news

File No. of 194

General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

DE
17 JUL 194
685
OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR
JUL 16 1942
No. 602

6) 1 a & b :- Arrangements may be made for the reading out of selected news matters contained in respectable newspapers ~~and periodicals~~ on the selection being made by the Supt or the Chief Jailor, once in three days.

7) 2 Educated prisoners may be allowed to get such papers as are approved by the Supt: at their own cost, as recommended by the S. G. P.

CWS 15-7-42

Mr. Desjardins

Denton -

8) The proposal of the I.G. of Prisons ~~Agra~~ to approved i-e only weekly or monthly etc may be allowed in respect of ordinary prisons but- dailies also. The other recommendations are difficult to work now. They may be considered after peace conditions return

(9)

10) MLL 20/7/42

CWS 21-7-42 MLL 21/7

Recommendation of the Prison Reforms Committee - Supplying news papers

Serial No.

11) Draft G.O. submitted for consideration
JWW 30/7

Law Secy)

12) May be approved
Minister for Law
ans 31-7-42
JWW 31/7

13) hm 31/7

ans 31-7-42

14) Issue 1/8/42

SECY. LAW DEPT. 1175 30 JULY 1942 GOVT OF MYSORE

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR LAW
JUL 31 1942
No. 1092

To —

11 — The I. G. of Prisons

G.O. No P 885 Dated 4.8.42

Accords approval to the proposals of the I. G. of Prisons and directs that the prisoners may be allowed to obtain Weekly and monthly magazines at their own Cost

12 —

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

WD 04155—GPB—55,000—23-10-41

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G. R. S. App. F VI—G 2]

SUBJECT .....

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Diary No. of letter replied to .....

Section Pns

File No. 2-42

Serial No. 11

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the 194

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Date of issue 4/8/42 194

Signed by Mr. M.K.V.

Read— Recommendation No. 138 of the Prison Reforms Committee suggesting important items of news being read to prisoners at regular hours daily, and views of Hon'ble F. G. P. thereon.

May this be—

(i) printed ?

(ii) treated as a standing order ?

(iii) published in the Gazette, English Part ?

(iv) translated ?

(v) placed at the disposal of the press ?

(vi) published in the Gazette, Kannada Part ?

Order thereon—No. P 885

The Prison Reforms Committee have recommended in paragraphs 17 and 18 of chapter VI of their Report, that news items and other particulars now broadcast to the public through the radio may be made available to prisoners; that, alternately, arrangements may be made for the reading

out of select news & matters contained
in news papers, or in special periodicals
prepared for circulation in jail; and
that educated prisoners should be
allowed to get their own papers

The I.G. of Prisons ~~in his~~
proposes
~~opinion~~ that prisoners may be allowed
to obtain at their own cost such of
the weekly or monthly magazines
as may be approved by the Supdt

Govt are pleased to approve
of the proposal of the I.G. of Prisons, and
direct that prisoners may be allowed
to obtain weekly and monthly
magazines at their own cost. They
are of opinion that the other
recommendations of the Committee
are difficult to work now and that
they may be considered after the
returns of normal conditions

Govt accordingly direct
the following amendment in the
rules in the Jail Manual —

Insert the following as

List of Enclosures

Copied by

Examined by

G. R. S. App. F. G. 3.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(*Continuation sheet draft form*).

as ~~Rule~~ Sub-rule (H) of rule 269 —

"(H) Prisoners may obtain at their own cost such weekly or monthly magazines as the Superintendent may approve"

Secy to Govt
Law Delpt.

JNKV
30/7

To,

The S. G. of Prisons

9

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS
THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Read:—

Recommendation No.138 of the Prison Reforms Committee suggesting important items of news being read to prisoners at regular intervals, and the views of the Inspector General of Prisons thereon.

ORDER NO.P. 885 Pris 2.42-11

Dated, Bangalore, the, 6th August 1942.

The Prison Reforms Committee have recommended in paragraphs 17 and 18 of Chapter VI of their Report that news items and other particulars now broadcast to the public through the radio may be made available to prisoners; that, alternatively, arrangements may be made for the reading out of select news matters contained in news papers, or in special periodicals prepared for circulation in Jail; and that educated prisoners should be allowed to get their own papers.

The Inspector General of Prisons proposes that prisoners may be allowed to obtain at their own cost such of the weekly or monthly magazines as may be approved by the Superintendent.

Government are pleased to approve of the proposal of the Inspector General of Prisons, and direct that prisoners may be allowed to obtain weekly and monthly magazines at their own cost. They are of opinion that the other recommendations of the Committee are difficult to work now and that they may be considered after return of normal conditions.

Government accordingly direct the following amendment in the rules in the jail manual:-

Insert the following as sub-rule (4) of rule 269--

"(4) Prisoners may obtain at their own cost such weekly or monthly magazines as the Superintendent may approve."

M.K. Varadarajan
Secretary to Government,
Law Department.

To

The Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore.

kmns.

Extract from the opinions of the I. G. of Prisons on the recommendations of the Prison Reforms Committee. 10

Recommendation No. 138 — The natural longing for news of the outside world should not be ~~of~~ suppressed through the banning of news in prison. News items and other particulars now broadcast to the Public through the radio may be made available also to prisoners. Alternatively, arrangements may be made for the reading out of select news matters contained in newspapers, or in special periodicals ~~to~~ prepared for circulation in jail. Educated prisoners should be allowed to get their own papers

I. G. of Prisons opinion thereon — They may be allowed to obtain at their own cost such of the weekly or monthly magazines as may be approved by the Superintendent. An amendment may be issued to rule 268 of the Mysore Jail manual.

JWW
8/7